

MORE AT FOUR

Governor Mike Easley's Pre-K Initiative

- ***More at Four*** is a community-based program designed to prepare at-risk four-year olds in North Carolina for success in kindergarten and beyond.
- ***More at Four*** is a voluntary program. Families may choose whether to participate in the program.
- ***More at Four*** will initially focus on serving at-risk four-year olds, those four-year olds who, because their families are low-income and face other challenges, are not getting the strong educational start they need and deserve. North Carolina has approximately 40,000 four-year olds who are identified as at-risk.
- ***More at Four*** will focus on the approximately ten thousand at-risk four-year olds who do not currently receive any formal childcare or educational services.
- ***More at Four*** will build on North Carolina's existing delivery system including public and private schools, Head Starts, and community-based child care centers and preschools. These groups will apply for ***More at Four*** funding.
- In its first year, \$6.5 million in ***More at Four*** funds will be available to begin local programs.
- ***More at Four*** programs will have to meet high quality education standards that will be set by the state with input from the ***More at Four*** task force.
- ***More at Four*** will provide funding, which will be supplemented by existing sources such as Smart Start, Head Start, Title I or potential new sources such as support from the business community.
- ***More at Four*** will be fully implemented over five years under this proposal
- The ***More at Four Task Force***, chaired by Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and Mike Ward, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will set standards for the program and will oversee its implementation.
- ***More at Four*** will be evaluated by independent experts.